

U.S. – EU JOINT STATEMENT

U.S. AND EU COMPLETE FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW OF AIRLINE PASSENGER DATA

Date: September 21, 2005

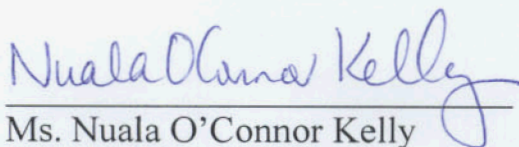
On September 20 and 21, representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the European Union completed the first annual Joint Review of the Passenger Name Record or “PNR” data sharing arrangement. The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Undertakings issued in May 2004--a series of representations to the European Union (EU) concerning the handling of PNR--called for an annual review of their implementation, with a view to mutually contributing to the effective operation of the processes described in the Undertakings.

EU and U.S. review teams, lead by Mr. Francisco Fonseca Morillo, Director, Commission Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security, and Ms. Nuala O'Connor Kelly, Chief Privacy Officer of DHS, engaged in two days of review and site visits. The teams comprised of officials from border and transportation, data protection, and law enforcement, including

representatives from EU Member States and senior CBP officials. The review considered the implementation by CBP of the PNR Undertakings and the results of an audit conducted by the DHS Privacy Office.

In site visits to CBP operations at Dulles Airport and the National Targeting Center (NTC), the teams learned more about how PNR data is used to facilitate travel into and out of the U.S. and to screen for individuals or groups related to terrorism or transnational crimes. The two teams were able to engage in a thorough set of questions and answers concerning the U.S. privacy protections of the EU data. The discussions were candid and constructive. Both parties agreed to analyze in depth the different issues raised to ensure an effective follow-up.

In this context, the Chairs committed to planning for the next Joint Review for 2006.



Ms. Nuala O'Connor Kelly
U.S. Delegation Chair

Date: Sept. 21 '05



Mr. Francisco Fonseca Morillo
EU Delegation Chair

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